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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/419,350	10/15/1999	KRISTEN MARIE ROBINS	CISCO-1315	1100

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DAVID B RITCHIE
D ALESSANDRO & RITCHIE
P O BOX 640640
SAN JOSE, CA 951640640

EXAMINER

NOBAHAR, ABDULHAKIM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

89

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/419,350

Applicant(s)

ROBINS ET AL.

Examiner

Abdulkhakim Nobahar

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4-8 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 17-25 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hacherl (6,324,571 B1).

Regarding claims 1-3, 5, 17-19, 21-23 and 29-31, Hacherl discloses a system for switching exclusive authority to perform a particular system-wide task between multiple servers in a network of computers (see column 2, lines 2-10). This system also is applicable in other computer system configurations such as multi-processor systems (corresponding to the recited processing engines) (see column 3, lines 43-48). As shown in Fig. 1, the system memory of each computer system includes RAM and ROM that stores BIOS. The BIOS contains routines (corresponding to the recited initialization information) that help to transfer information between elements within the computer, such as during start-up (see, for example, column 3, line 64-column 4, line 11). Hacherl discloses that each computer system further includes hard disk drive for storing information including application programs, operating system and data such as password (see, for example, column 4, lines 29-34 and column 9, lines 21-23). The ROM memory and the hard disk drive in each computer system correspond to the recited first and third memories accessible by first PE and second and fourth memories accessible by second PE, respectively.

Hacherl further discloses a mechanism for promoting a server to become the master controller in the network, in case the original master, for example, crashes (see,

for example, column 11, lines 34-60). This mechanism (or process) corresponds to the recited circuitry for switching control from first PE to second PE.

Hacherl also discloses a PDC advertiser (corresponding to the recited password passer) that replicates (updates) the password (corresponding to the recited enable password) onto other controller (see, for example, column 9, lines 16-32 and column 12, lines 50-60) whenever the password is changed including at the initialization of the system which normally a new password is introduced.

Regarding claims 4, 20, 24, 25 and 32, Hacherl discloses that a domain controller may request replication data from another domain controller (see, for example, column 7, lines 27-57).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-16, 26-28 and 33-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hacherl (6,324,571 B1) in view of Kung (5,241,594).

Regarding claims 6, 7, 10, 12-16, 26-28, 33-35 and 38-39, Hacherl discloses a system for switching authority between multiple servers in a network according to that embodied by claims 1-5. However, Hacherl does not expressly disclose a password

keeper or a password sever for maintaining the password in a password memory accessible by first and second PEs.

Kung does disclose a database (corresponding to the recited password memory) in a server (corresponding to the recited password keeper or password server) for holding the encrypted password accessible by clients (see, for example, column 2, lines 15-21, column 2, lines 33-46 and column 4, lines 22-29). This server includes an interface for communicating the password to the clients and this server allows authentication of users attempting to access resources on the network computers (see, for example, column 4, lines 34-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a server (password keeper) as taught in Kung in the system of Hacherl, because it would provide a safe and user-transparent method and means for authenticating users in a distributed computing system that does not require special purpose hardware development (see column 2, lines 5-10).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Hacherl describes that generally the program modules including routines such as BIOS (initialization information) in a computer perform particular task by executing instructions (see column 3, lines 35-51). Thus it is inherent that every server (PEs) in Hacherl's system includes instructions in the BIOS routines

of the server to instruct the server (password keeper) for writing the password in the database (memory).

Regarding claims 11, 36 and 37, this claim is rejected as applied to the like elements of claims 4, 20, 24, 25 and 32 above.

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hacherl (6,324,571 B1) in view of Alonso et al (6,434,700 B1).

Regarding claim 40, Hacherl discloses a system for switching authority between multiple servers in a network according to that embodied by claims 1-5.

However, Hacherl does not expressly disclose the use of an AAA server to store an enable password in a database and authenticating the users attempting to access resources on the network.

Alonso does disclose a computer network system that includes an AAA server as an access control server that authenticates and authorizes the users in a centralized fashion (see, for example, column 5, line 60-column 6, line 5). The AAA server contains the password that is used for authenticating the users (see, for example, column 6, line 62-column 7, line 15) and it includes an interface for communicating with other computers via an information bus (see, for example, column 3, lines 3-10 and column 9, line 66-column 10, line 15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an AAA server (password keeper) as taught

in Kung in the system of Hacherl, because it would provide a mechanism that can receive and authenticate any kind of passwords within a system that a user may use (se column 4, lines 1-4).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 5,655,077 to Jones et al.

US Patent No. 6,088,451 to He et al.

US Patent No. 56,496,940 B1 to Horst et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdulhakim Nobahar whose telephone number is 703-305-8074. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

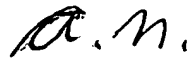
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 703-305-1830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Application/Control Number: 09/419,350
Art Unit: 2132

Page 7

Abdulhakim Nobahar
Examiner
Art Unit 2132



AN
September 24, 2003



GILBERTO BARRÓN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100